

Commerce and Trade Implementation Plan

Issue #1:

Manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism are highly dependent on the maintenance, expansion, and coordination of our transportation systems (highway, rail, air, and water).

Action #1:

Examine use of technology at border crossings to reduce delays and form a working group for that task from the stakeholders. Conduct inspections of cars, trains, and trucks at locations other than directly at the borders (an off-site inspection).

Tasks:

1. Identify current situations
 - a. Identify Customs Locations and Practices including armed Customs and Border Protection Inspectors in Canada and E.U.
 - b. Assemble existing data on delay times to establish value and baseline data
2. Explore Ideas:
 - a. Off-site inspections (Free Trade Zones)
 - b. Have Customs and Border Protection inspections in Canada
 - c. Technology Expertise
 - d. Alternative personnel resources for Law Enforcement Officer back-up for Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
3. Evaluate Ideas and Make Recommendations.

Action #2:

Continue to expand the use of technology to improve operations and reduce delays across all modes.

Tasks:

1. Develop a standing intermodal advisory committee to report to the State Transportation Commission and the Director of MDOT. This committee will be made up of private and public interests that will focus on Commerce and Trade. Examples of committee member should include but not limited to: County Road Association of Michigan, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Twp. Assoc, Economic Development Coordinators, Freight Forwarders, Farm Bureau, Michigan Public Transit Association, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Aviation Associations, Ferries, Metropolitan Planning Offices, Michigan Railroad Association, Michigan Road Builders, Agribusiness, Museums, Hotels, Labor Unions, Building Trades, Michigan Retail Association, Michigan Department of Transportation's Asset Management Council and Michigan Economic Development Corporation, etc.
 - a. Appoint Committee
 - b. Draft Charter

2. Identify existing technology and research on new and emerging technologies for system operation e.g. ITS, Pavement Management Systems (Micro Paver), and Asset Management Council.
3. Identify any intermodal initiatives as it relates to technology that is ongoing to create baseline for further study.
4. Committee should work with stakeholders/experts working on intermodal commerce and trade issues in transportation (rail, air, highway and water).

Action #3:

Develop campaign to educate the public on the importance of commerce and trade and insuring the necessary infrastructure is available.

Tasks:

1. Enlist Champions
 - a. Data collection – build case
 - b. Select/appoint individual
2. Form Coalition
 - a. Identify statewide and regional champions
 - b. Identify Midwest states/partners (e.g., Great Lakes North America)
3. Develop strategy
 - a. Identify audience
 - b. Define key messages
 - c. Identify messengers
4. Deliver
 - a. Develop mechanisms to reach target groups

Action #4:

Tie border crossing funding to the value of trade at the border crossing and inspection points.

Tasks:

1. Define the importance of the commercial border crossing traffic in Michigan in terms of: value, volume and economic impact.
2. Identify partner coalitions –leverage and lobby efforts
3. Stakeholders involved

Issue #2: Federal dollars should adequately account for international trade volumes between Michigan and Ontario in addition to fuel tax funding sources.

Action: #10

Position Michigan to aggressively compete with other states for border crossing sites and funding.

Tasks:

1. Work with other state Congressional delegation on importance of Michigan Border Crossings to their state
2. Share information with target groups in other states; ie., Chamber of Commerce, etc. to gain their support
3. Canadian buy-in required
4. Identify trade at other (non-Michigan) crossings to know what they are doing

Action #3:

Develop campaign to educate the public on the importance of commerce and trade and insuring the necessary infrastructure is available.

Tasks:

1. Enlist Champions
 - a. Data collection – build case
 - b. Select/appoint individual
2. Form Coalition
 - a. Identify statewide and regional champions
 - b. Identify Midwest states/partners (e.g. GLNA)
3. Develop strategy
 - a. Identify the federal dollars
 - b. Develop facts and statistics to support message
 - c. Identify audience
 - Identify target groups (Michigan & Ontario) for education
 - Commuters and employers impacted by crossing delays at border crossings
 - Transportation Companies (Carrier Truck & Rail)
 - Business & Industry
 - Tourism – Recreation
 - d. Define key messages
 - e. Identify messengers
4. Deliver
 - a. Develop mechanisms to reach target groups

Action #4:

Tie border crossing funding to the value of trade at the border crossing.

Tasks:

1. Define the importance of the commercial border crossing traffic in Michigan in terms of value, volume, and economic impact
2. Identify federal dollars and how allocated
3. Develop facts and statistics – value of trade
 - a. Identify value of trade that goes through Michigan to gain support from areas outside of Michigan

Issue #3:

Need to look at connectivity and capacity to all Michigan borders and all modes of transportation (highway, rail, air, and water).

Action #1:

Examine use of technology at border crossings to reduce delays and form a working group for that task from the stakeholders. Conduct inspections of cars, trains, and trucks at locations other than directly at the borders (an off-site inspection).

Tasks:

1. Identify current situations
 - a. Identify Customs Locations and Practices including armed Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Inspectors in Canada and E.U.
 - b. Assemble existing data on delay times to establish value and baseline data
 - c. Identify any intermodal initiatives as it relates to technology that is ongoing to create baseline for further study.
2. Explore Ideas:
 - a. Off-site inspections (Free Trade Zones)
 - b. Have Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections in Canada
 - c. Technology Expertise
 - d. Alternative personnel resources for Law Enforcement Officer back-up for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) (local police paid for by users)
3. Evaluate Ideas and Make Recommendations

Action #2:

Continue to expand the use of technology to improve operations and reduce delays across all modes.

Tasks:

1. Identify current situations
 - a. Identify transportation modes and border crossing processes used by manufacturing, agricultural business, tourism, and other passenger/freight traffic.
 - b. Identify current software used for border processing and transportation congestion management and evaluate how these software packages could be linked to improve the efficiency of border crossing movements.
 - c. Identify institutional traditions that need to be addressed to allow for improvement within and across the different modes.
 - d. Identify issues associated with the temporary and permanent implementation of U.S. VISIT program
2. Explore ideas:
 - a. Improve current software technology and programs (FAST, NEXUS U.S. VISIT ...) where deficiencies have been uncovered.
 - b. Enhance communications across ports of entry to allow for opportunities to re-route traffic.

- c. Explore how enhancements to border crossing movements may be accommodated in a 511 Travel Info* statewide study for both commercial and passenger traffic.
 - d. Interface ITS technology with other technologies related to border crossing processes (FAST, NEXUS U.S. VISIT) to improve movement at border crossings.
 - e. Explore ideas to facilitate the timely movement of passengers
 - f. Identify opportunities for the private railroads and government agencies to work together to more effectively and efficiently use our limited transportation infrastructure and funding resources
3. Evaluate ideas for development and recommendations
- *NOTE For more information on 511 Travel Info go to: <http://www.its.dot.gov/511/511.htm>

Action #4:

Tie border crossing funding to the value of trade at the border crossing

Action: #10

Position Michigan to aggressively compete with other states for border crossing sites and funding.

Tasks:

1. Define the importance of the commercial border crossing traffic in Michigan in terms of: value, volume and economic impact.
2. Develop a coalition of states and provinces who benefit from and depend on well functioning border crossing.

Issue #4:

Commerce and trade should more fully utilize all forms of transportation (air, water, rail) to relieve highway congestion.

Action #1:

Examine use of technology at border crossings to reduce delays and form a working group for that task from the stakeholders. Conduct inspections of cars, trains, and trucks at locations other than directly at the borders (an off-site inspection).

Tasks:

1. Partner with US Department of Homeland Security and other security agencies to understand risk levels that are acceptable.
2. Conduct multi-agency sponsored study to identify technology applications that reduce risk levels of off-site inspection to acceptable level.
3. Develop public/private partnerships to implement Action 1.

Action #2:

Continue to expand the use of technology to improve operations and reduce delays across all modes.

Tasks:

1. Convene mini summit to address ways to explore, identify, communicate, and implement technologies to more efficiently integrate use of all modes of transportation.
 - a. Identify participants

Action #3:

Develop campaign to educate the public on the importance of commerce and trade and insuring the necessary infrastructure is available.

Tasks:

1. Identify facts on how each mode contributes to Commerce & Trade
2. Develop strategy on how to educate public
 - a. Tap into resources of universities and industry to develop and deliver message.
 - b. Tie into job creation and retention.
 - c. Enlist support of business interests' e.g., Chambers of Commerce, Detroit Economic Club, etc.

Action #4:

Tie border crossing funding to the value of trade at the border crossing

Tasks:

1. Define the importance of the commercial border crossing traffic in Michigan in terms of: value, volume, and economic impact.

2. Collect data on value of trade by mode and each border crossing (nationwide).
3. Identify current funding levels by mode and each crossing (nationwide) including support services (customs, etc. and capital improvements.
4. Analyze data to determine inequities.
5. Develop position papers and send to local, state, federal elected officials.